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SENATE BILL 6578

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Roach and Keiser

Read first time 01/18/08. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to annexations by hospital districts; and amending  
2 RCW 70.44.210, 70.44.220, and 70.44.230.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.44.210 and 1967 c 227 s 6 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 As an alternate method of annexation to public hospital districts,  
7 any territory adjacent to a public hospital district may be annexed  
8 thereto by vote of the qualified electors residing in the territory to  
9 be annexed, in the manner provided in RCW 70.44.210 through 70.44.230.  
10 An election to annex such territory may only be called pursuant to a  
11 resolution calling for such an election adopted by the district  
12 commissioners following two public hearings on such a resolution. Both  
13 hearings on a resolution must be held within the boundaries of the  
14 territory to be annexed.

15 Any resolution calling for such an election shall describe the  
16 boundaries of the territory to be annexed, state that the annexation of  
17 such territory to the public hospital district will be conducive to the  
18 welfare and benefit of the persons or property within the district and  
19 within the territory proposed to be annexed, contain the tax

1 implications of the annexation along with how the money will be spent,  
2 and fix the date, time, and place for a public hearing thereon which  
3 date shall be not more than sixty nor less than forty days following  
4 the adoption of such resolution.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.44.220 and 1967 c 227 s 7 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 Notice of (~~such~~) each of the two required hearings shall be  
8 published once a week for at least (~~two~~) the three consecutive weeks  
9 immediately before the hearings in one or more newspapers of general  
10 circulation within the territory proposed to be annexed. If the  
11 territory to be annexed is only served by newspapers of general  
12 circulation publishing on a monthly or bimonthly basis, notice of the  
13 two required hearings shall be published for at least three respective  
14 newspaper publishing dates immediately before the hearings. The notice  
15 shall contain a description of the boundaries of the territory proposed  
16 to be annexed, the tax implications of the annexation along with how  
17 the money will be spent, and shall state the time and place of the  
18 hearing thereon and the fact that any changes in the boundaries of such  
19 territory will be considered at such time and place. At such hearings  
20 or any continuation thereof, any interested person may appear and be  
21 heard on all matters relating to the proposed annexation. The district  
22 commissioners may make such changes in the boundaries of the territory  
23 proposed to be annexed as it shall deem reasonable and proper, but may  
24 not delete any portion of the proposed area which will create an island  
25 of included or excluded lands. If the district commissioners shall  
26 determine that any additional territory should be included in the  
27 territory to be annexed, (~~a second~~) an additional hearing shall be  
28 held and notice given in the same manner as for the original hearings.  
29 The district commissioners may adjourn the hearings on the proposed  
30 annexation from time to time not exceeding thirty days in all. At the  
31 next regular meeting following the conclusion of such hearings, the  
32 district commissioners shall, if it finds that the annexation of such  
33 territory will be conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons  
34 and property therein and the welfare and benefit of the persons and  
35 property within the public hospital district, adopt a resolution fixing  
36 the boundaries of the territory to be annexed and causing to be called

1 a special election on such annexation to be held not more than one  
2 hundred twenty days nor less than sixty days following the adoption of  
3 such resolution.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.44.230 and 1967 c 227 s 8 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 An election on the annexation of territory to a public hospital  
7 district shall be conducted and canvassed in the same manner as  
8 provided for the conduct of an election on the formation of a public  
9 hospital district except that notice of such election shall be  
10 published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the  
11 territory proposed to be annexed for the three consecutive weeks  
12 immediately before the election and the ballot proposition shall be in  
13 substantially the following form:

14 ANNEXATION TO (herein insert name of public hospital district)

15 "Shall the territory described in a resolution of the  
16 public hospital district commissioners of ((here)) insert name  
17 of public hospital district here) adopted on . . . . ,  
18 . . . . . , ((19)) 20. . . , be annexed to such district and  
19 should that district impose a permanent regular property tax  
20 levy of (insert maximum amount of tax here) or less per  
21 thousand dollars of the assessed valuation, with money raised  
22 under this tax to be spent as follows: (insert how tax money  
23 will be spent)?

24 YES .....   
25 NO .....

26 If a majority of those voting on such proposition vote in favor  
27 thereof, the territory shall thereupon be annexed to the public  
28 hospital district.

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